A multi-pronged approach is adopted to prevent occurrence of plague involving improvement of environmental sanitation, rodent and vector control by using insecticides, increasing public awareness etc. The continuous surveillance of plague has helped in preventing its occurrence. The States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal have established State Plague Surveillance units at Rohru and Uttarkashi, respectively with technical help extended by National Institute of Communicable Diseases. Integrated Diseases Surveillance Project has been launched in November, 2004 to improve the existing surveillance activities of various diseases, including plague.

Modernisation of NIMS and SVRIMS

1903. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to release Rs. 170 crores for modernization of the NIMS and the Sri Venkateshwara Rao Institute of Medical Sciences (SVRIMS); and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), *inter alia* there is a proposal for upgradation of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad and Sri Venkateshwara Rao Institute of Medical Sciences (SVRIMS), Tirupati with a total outlay of Rs. 180 crore approximately to the level of proposed AIIMS like Institution. The PMSSY Scheme has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee and Committee of Secretaries (CoS) and is being processed for placing before Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for approval.

Hand-Foot and mouth disease in children

1904. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies were initiated on the outbreak of a rare child disease

called hand-foot and mouth disease (HFMD, occurred in Mallapuram District of Kerala during the year 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to control the above disease and the number of affected as on today; and

(c) the details of reasons for the outbreak of this rare child disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As reported by the State Government, about 100 cases of Hand-Foot and mouth disease were reported by private practitioners, especially pediatricians. The reported cases have been diagnosed only clinically and not confirmed by any laboratory investigations. This is a rare viral disease and it needs only symptomatic treatment.

The Hand-Foot and mouth disease spreads through contaminated food and water. The virus transmits through feco-oral route. Awareness programmes are initiated in the affected areas about the importance of the prevention of the disease. Health education classes are imparted to improve the hygiene status of the community in order to prevent the occurrence of this disease.

Expansion of Safdarjung hospital

†1905 PROF. R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made an expansion plan for Safdarjung hospital in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c)the funds proposed to be allocated by Government for the implementation of this plan; and

(d) by when this plan would be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (b) While modernization/provision of latest equipment/ restructuring/ addition of new

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.